



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance
Commissioner Paula Flowers**

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FRANKLIN MAN
REGARDING UNLAWFUL LAW PRACTICE, PYRAMID MARKETING SCHEME**

Attorney General Paul G. Summers today announced the State has reached an agreement with a Franklin man alleged to have claimed to be a tax attorney to recruit people into an illegal pyramid marketing scheme.

Daniel J. Gleason, who was doing business as Tax Toolbox, Inc., My Tax Man Inc. and MTM Franchising, Inc. has agreed to stop misrepresenting himself as an attorney and to refrain from recruiting people into the alleged pyramid marketing operation. Gleason will also pay the State civil penalties totaling \$50,000 plus six percent interest over the next five years. Gleason has admitted no wrongdoing as part of the agreement.

"This agreement helps maintain the integrity of Tennessee's marketplace," Attorney General Summers said. "Tennesseans and consumers from other states will benefit from this resolution."

General Summers explained that a classic pyramid scheme involves recruiting others to market a program or sell goods and/or services to make money. "Unless you are at the top of the pyramid," General Summers said, "you will not make any money, which means the average person is going to gain nothing and will likely lose money from engaging in this kind of risky venture."

Gleason and his companies are alleged to have marketed the Tax Toolbox and My Tax Man,

Inc. programs, telling potential customers they could get a personal tax coach for tax questions and answers via an “800” number if they purchased the program. During the sales presentation, potential customers were not told of the additional charges for specific services, according to the complaint. In addition, the promotional brochures promoted a team of the My Tax Man, Inc. consisted of a team of “tax attorneys,” when there were no licensed attorneys on staff.

Gleason allegedly engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by providing and advising clients on legal documents in the Tax Toolbox materials, which included employer-employee contracts, a booklet with legal forms and case summaries regarding a self-employed 100 percent medical reimbursement plan and other forms. Gleason is also alleged to have recruited others to promote his programs, according to the complaint.

Mary Clement, director of the Division of Consumer Affairs suggested, “You should always check out individuals to see if the credentials they claim are legitimate. If you suspect you have been a victim of these types of deceptive acts, contact the Division of Consumer Affairs.”

You may contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at www.state.tn.us/consumer or call 1-800-342-8385.